

	<p>"I have great expectations for Alaska's teens. I expect them to succeed in school, be of strong character, and avoid the risks that will interfere with their full development. To realize these expectations we must turn to our youth and work alongside them to create healthier schools, neighborhoods, and communities." – <i>Roger Sampson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development</i></p>
<p>Who is sponsoring the Youth Empowerment Summit (YES)?</p>	<p>YES is sponsored by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and other Alaskan Youth Professionals.</p>
<p>What is the YES?</p>	<p>The YES is a youth/adult partnership initiative developed collaboratively by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development and Alaska's Positive Youth Development Professionals.</p> <p>September 13-16, 2004, 15 –20 youth/adult teams will be chosen to participate in the YES. Selected teams will attend the Summit along with 20 education, business, and community leaders who will serve as coaches.</p> <p>The goal of the YES is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Identify the strengths within yourself,</li> <li>★ Identify the strengths of your village or neighborhood, and</li> <li>★ Develop a plan for “connecting activities” that your team will complete once you return home.</li> </ul>
<p>Who should apply?</p>	<p>Do you care about your future? Do you care about the future of your village or neighborhood? Do you want to make a difference in the lives of people? Leave your mark? Change the world? If you and your team members can answer YES to any, or all, of these questions you can apply to be one of the teams selected to be part of the YES.</p> <p>We are looking for teens aged 13 to 17 years who have completed the 7th, 8th, 9th or 10th grades, as of June 2004.</p> <p>Each team may include 4 to 6 teens and must include 2 adult partners. Teams will be limited to 8 participants. The adult partners should be invited to the teams by the teens and will serve as working partners, barrier busters, guides, and mentors during the Summit and when they return home.</p>

<p><b>How do I apply?</b></p>	<p>All teams must complete an official YES! Application. Applications must be postmarked by August 9, 2004.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Click to download a copy of the Application for the Youth Empowerment Summit</u></a> and <a href="#"><u>Recommendation forms.</u></a></p> <p>If you cannot get the application from the internet, please contact Kathleen Castle at (907) 345-7977 or via e-mail at lei@alaska.net, to request a copy by U.S. Mail or fax.</p>
<p><b>What will I do at the YES?</b></p>	<p>All Youth/Adult partnership teams will work collectively to consider, design, and prepare to implement activities and actions that will make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth in your community.</p> <p>Summit participants will participate in a full range of activities including exciting full group sessions, small group workshops, and team study seminars. Of course, the Summit will also include plenty of fun social activities.</p>
<p><b>When and where is the YES?</b></p>	<p>The YES will be held September 13-16, 2004 at Little Beaver Camp on Linda Lake, ten miles outside of Wasilla. For safety reasons, no smoking is allowed at the Little Beaver Camp for participants of any age.</p>
<p><b>What will I get out of this experience?</b></p>	<p>Participating youth will have the opportunity to work with other creative and concerned young people from throughout Alaska, to see themselves and their communities through new “eyes” and will develop a plan of action.</p> <p>Participants will attend workshops to learn new skills, will have the opportunity to meet and work with education, business and community leaders and will use those skills and that information to develop a plan of action for their own community.</p>
<p><b>If selected, how will my team fund our trip to the Summit?</b></p>	<p>Transportation, lodging, and meals for community teams will be covered through grants from our sponsors.</p>
<p><b>Who will chaperone the YES?</b></p>	<p>Community adult team members and other adult staff will serve as chaperones for the duration of the Summit to ensure the safety and comfort of all youth.</p>

<p><b>Who will be facilitating YES and teaching workshops?</b></p>	<p>Alaska's Child/Youth Advocate, Derek Peterson, will facilitate the teams through this summit experience. Over the past 10 years Derek has delivered hundreds of youth friendly and lively workshops in 141 Alaskan villages, neighborhoods, and schools. To add to the fun, numerous other notable Alaskan youth friendly adults will provide workshops, keynotes, and lead seminars that offer their insights, experiences, and recommendations throughout the Summit. This summit will be filled with POSITIVITY and POSSIBILITY.</p>
<p><b>Who would be good adult partners?</b></p>	<p>The adult partners should be adult community members who have a history of working well with youth, and can be expected to work effectively with youth during and after the Summit. They must have a commitment to helping their team design an action plan at the Summit and to being full members of the team as they carry out their plan when they return home.</p> <p>The adult partners could be an educator, a businessperson, or another community leader who is 'youth friendly.'</p> <p>Each team must strive to find two adult partners who are committed to working with youth.</p>
<p><b>Who are the team leaders?</b></p>	<p>Each team will select "team leaders." One adult and one teen leader. These team leaders will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Assist with the formation of the team</li> <li>★ Assist with completing and submitting the team application by August 9</li> <li>★ Serve as the liaison with all team members before, during and after the Summit</li> <li>★ Arrange team travel</li> <li>★ Participate in one or more conference calls with the Summit Director prior to the Summit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who can I contact for more information?</b></p>	<p>If you have questions, contact Kathleen Castle, Summit Director at Leadership Experiences International at ((907) 345-7977 or by e-mail at lei@alaska.net.</p>